GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2702
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2000
DEVELOPMENT OF BACKWARD DISTRICTS
RAJO SINGH;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether several districts in the country are still backward;

(b) If so, the details of such districts identified by the Government so far alongwith the reasons for their backwardness even after fifty years of independence, state-wise;

(c) Whether any specific programmes have been formulated by the Government to remove backwardness of these districts;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) The extent to which the Government have achieved success in this direction ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF PLANNING, STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINSTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS & PUBLIC GRIEVANCES (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) Yes, Sir. Although removal of regional disparities has been an inherent part of the planning process, certain areas of the country continue to lag behind in the development process owing to certain historical-geographical factors and differences in resource endowment.

(b) As planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose are primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government, Planning Commission has not identified any district as backward per se.

(c), (d) & (e) Do not arise. However, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in the development of backward areas through appropriate weightage in the formula used for distribution of Normal Central Assistance. In addition, in order to address the special problems of designated areas Special Central Assistance is allocated under Special Area Programmes such as Hill Areas Development Programme, Border Area Development Programme, North Eastern Council and Tribal Sub-Plan. In addition, certain other area programmes such as Drought Prone Area Programme

(DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Project (IWDP) are in operation to mitigate the development problems of identified areas. Further, in order to give a fillip to industries in less developed areas various schemes are in operation such as the Growth Centres Scheme, Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme and Transport Subsidy Scheme.